WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.  A business model for use in a data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations, the business model comprising:

        a set of dimensions representing business reference aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the set of dimensions representing the business reference aspects of a particular organization;

        a set of measures representing measurements of business activity aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the set of measures representing the business activity aspects of the specific organization; and

        relationships between the set of dimensions and measures, the relationships allowing for functional areas of analysis to use common dimensions for cross-functional analysis.

2.  The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more dimensions include one or more placeholders settable such that a subset of the set of dimensions represents the business reference aspects of the specific organization.

3.  The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein the dimensions are grouped into groupings of dimensions.

4.  The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes organizational dimensions for financial analysis of the multiple organizations.

5.  The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes functional document dimensions.

6.  The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes master dimensions.

7. The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes operational entity dimensions.

8. The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes financial transaction activity dimensions.

9. The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes organizational dimensions for financial analysis of the multiple organizations.

10. The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes universal dimensions.

11. The business model claimed in claim 3, wherein a grouping of dimensions includes functional specific dimensions.

12. The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more measures comprise a key performance indicator.

13. The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein the set of measures is grouped into areas of analysis to answer business questions applicable to the multiple organizations, a subset of the business questions used to analyze the particular organization.

14. The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein the set of measures is grouped into functional areas of analysis to answer business questions applicable to a functional area of the multiple organizations, a subset of the business questions used to analyze the functional area of the particular organization.

15. The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein a grouping of the set of measures relates to at least one of:

sales analysis of the multiple organizations for providing information used to analyse and make decisions within a sales division of an organization;

accounts receivable analysis of the multiple organizations;

general ledger analysis of the multiple organizations;

accounts payable analysis of the multiple organizations.

inventory analysis of the multiple organizations.

procurement analysis of the multiple organizations.

16. The business model claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more measure includes one or more placeholders settable such that the subset of the set of measures represent the measurements of business activity aspects of the specific organization.

17. A method for creating a business model for use in a data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations, the method comprising steps of:

merging business questions of the multiple organizations into areas of analysis; and

decomposing the areas of analysis into:

a set of dimensions representing business reference aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the set of dimensions representing the business reference aspects of a particular organization; and

a set of measures representing measurements of business activity aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the set of measures representing the measurements of business activity aspects of the specific organization; and

determining relationships between the set of dimensions and set of measures, the relationships allowing for functional areas of analysis to use common dimensions for cross-functional analysis.

18. A method for creating a data warehouse system for managing the performance of an organization, the data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations, the method comprising steps of:

creating a business model of organizations, the business model for answering

business questions of the multiple organizations;

implementing the business model in a data model, the data model having

placeholders settable such that the model represents a particular organization; and

implementing configurable aspects of the data model in a configuration unit

for setting the placeholders in the data model to the particular organization.

19. The method claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of implementing the business

model in a data model comprises the step of providing one or more placeholders in

the set of dimensions, the placeholders settable to configure the set of dimensions to

the particular organization.

20. The method claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of implementing the business

model in a data model comprises the step of providing one or more placeholders in

the set of measures, the placeholders settable to configure the set of measures to the

particular organization.

21. The method claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of implementing the business

model in a data model comprises the step of determining relationships between the set

of dimensions and set of measures comprises the step of determining which

dimensions in the set of dimensions are used by each measure.

22. The method claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of implementing the business

model in a data model the step of providing placeholders in the data model, the

placeholders settable such that the data model represents a particular organization.

23. The method claimed in claim 22, wherein the step of providing placeholders

comprises one or more steps of:

providing one or more placeholders in the data model to reflect a fiscal pattern

of the particular organization;

providing one or more placeholders in the data model to reflect a common

currency used by the data model; and

providing one or more placeholders in the data model to reflect a category defined by a user, the category used to analyze information in the data model.

24. The method claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of implementing connectors to extract source data from one or more data sources and to load the extracted data into the data model.

25. The method claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of implementing connectors comprises the step of providing placeholders in the configuration unit, the connectors for extracting data from one or more data source systems and loading the data into the data model, the placeholders settable such that the configuration unit represents a particular data source.

26. The method claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of providing settable parameters comprises the step of providing settable parameters in the connectors for configuring the connectors to the particular data source.

27. The method claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of providing settable parameters comprises the step of providing one or more settable placeholders in the data model for configuring the connectors to the particular data source system.

28. The method claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of providing settable parameters comprises the step of providing one or more settable options in the configuration unit to reflect environmental settings of the particular data source system.

29. The method claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of providing parameters in one or more connectors comprises the step of providing extraction transformation loading (ETL) software code.

30. The method claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of providing parameters in one or more connectors comprises steps of:

providing ETL code for extracting values from a data source system to set the placeholders in the data model and to set the parameters in the configuration unit; and

providing ETL code for using the values to extract information from the data source system, transform the data and load the data into the data model.

31. A dimensional framework for use as a foundation of a data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations, the dimensional framework comprising a set of dimensions of the multiple organizations, the dimensions representing business reference aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the dimensions representing the business reference aspects of a particular organization.

32. A method for creating a dimensional framework for use as a foundation of a data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations, the method comprising steps of:

collecting common dimensions of the multiple organizations, the dimensions representing the business reference aspects of the multiple organizations;

implementing the common dimensions into a dimensional framework data model, the dimensional framework data model having placeholders settable such that the dimensional framework represents a particular organization; and

implementing configurable aspects of the dimensional framework data model in a configuration unit for setting the placeholders in the dimensional framework to the particular organization.

33. The method claimed in claim 32, further comprising the step of implementing connectors to extract source data from one or more data sources and to load the extracted data into the dimensional framework data model

34. A computer program product for use in the execution in a computer of a data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations, the data warehouse system for managing performance of a particular organization, the data warehouse system comprising:

a set of dimensions representing business reference aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the set of dimensions representing the business reference aspects of a particular organization;

a set of measures representing measurements of business activity aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the set of measures representing the business activity aspects of the specific organization; and

relationships between the set of dimensions and measures, the relationships allowing for functional areas of analysis to use common dimensions for cross-functional analysis.

35. A computer program product for use in the execution in a computer of a dimensional framework for use as a foundation of a data warehouse system adaptable for multiple organizations adaptable for multiple organizations, the dimensional framework comprising a set of dimensions of the multiple organizations, the dimensions representing business reference aspects of the multiple organizations, a subset of the dimensions representing the business reference aspects of a particular organization.